



Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board – Draft February Meeting Notes

Date: February 15, 2022

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting

Summary: Formal Actions/Decisions

Item	Formal Action
Meeting notes from January 18, 2022	Approved

Summary: Follow-up Actions

Item	Follow-up
Consider holding a Cost Increase Subcommittee Meeting	Chair Jameson will assess the Johnson Creek cost increase request for eligibility and determine if the subgroup should meet.
Review and updates of 2023-2025 Grant Round Applications	FBRB’s TRT will provide regular updates to the Board and share the finalized ranked project list in August 2022.
Subgroup report out on National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program discussion	A subgroup met immediately after the Board meeting to discuss the federal grant program and they will report out at the upcoming March 2022 Board meeting.

Welcome/Introductions/Agenda Review: Triangle Facilitator, Alex Sweetser, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Alex Sweetser facilitated introductions with FBRB members and staff. A quorum was present.

Chair Tom Jameson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), noted Joe Shramek, Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be leaving the Board and Terra Rentz will replace him as the primary voting member for DNR. Mary McDonald will remain the DNR alternate.

Public Comment: No public comments were received.

Old Business: The meeting notes for the FBRB January 2022 meeting were approved by the Board. Board members agreed the Preliminary 2023-2025 Project List could be shared to Board members’ networks with the disclaimer that it is a preliminary list and subject to change.

General Updates:

Proviso Strategist Hiring Update

Chair Tom Jameson explained the job description for the Proviso Strategist position was posted on February 9th and will remain up through February 27th. The position is highly technical and WDFW does not anticipate many applicants. There will be two rounds of interviews and WDFW expects to make an offer at the end of March 2022 with the position beginning in mid-April 2022.

American Rivers Dam Database and Prioritization System Meeting Update

WDFW staff met with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), who had facilitated a meeting with American Rivers. American Rivers has a database of dam removals dating back to the early 1900's and is developing a database of dams they will use to prioritize for removal. To develop the system, American Rivers requested access to WDFW data. This will require a data-sharing agreement. Updates will be provided to Board as the conversation advances.

US Forest Service (USFS) Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Projects Potential Partnership Opportunity

USFS reached out to WDFW to meet and share a USFS list of AOP projects for removal if funding is approved. Under federal law, the USFS can fund fish passage barrier removals downstream of Forest Service lands. There are 291 projects in Washington and Oregon, with 87 of those in Washington. The majority of USFS land is around the Olympic Peninsula and the eastern and northeastern areas of the State. USFS is looking at potential projects and would like to explore opportunities to collaborate with WDFW and FBRB. This funding could include working under contract with WDFW with engineers to accelerate the design timeline for fish passage projects.

City of Gig Harbor Fish Passage Meeting Update

WDFW staff recently attended a Gig Harbor City Council meeting where the City was discussing a proposed fish passage project at North/Donkey Creek. Nearby land is for sale by a landowner, which the City is interested in acquiring. Additionally, the City is interested in road improvements adjacent to the land and opening a barrier for the creek on that road.

Cost Increase Request

Chair Jameson noted a cost increase request came in for Johnson Creek, which is a 21-23 project. However, there are no funds available for the current biennium. WDFW and RCO staff will review the request and consider eligibility, and if eligible, if the Cost Increase Subcommittee should meet in advance of the March 2022 FBRB to discuss the request to bring back to the full Board.

Chehalis Flood Damage to Fish Passage Projects Update

The western side of Washington received substantial amounts of rainfall in early February 2022, which resulted in record flooding throughout the Chehalis Basin. Several older WDFW fishways in Chehalis tributaries were overtopped with sediment and crews are working to clear the obstructions.

Update on FBRB 2023-2025 Grant Round

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and WDFW received 113 applications for the FBRB 2023-2025 Grant Round. The Technical Review Team (TRT) will review applications for completion, eligibility, and updated with new estimates. A finalized, ranked list will be presented to the Board in August 2022 and updates will be shared with the Board throughout the review process.

Discuss Upcoming Opportunities for Engagement

Legislative Updates:

- The Lorraine Loomis Act will not be moving forward this legislative session, but pieces of it might. An update can be shared at a future Board meeting.
- A bill proposed by Representative Lekanoff to create a Salmon Cabinet has not advanced. The FBRB can discuss the bill at the March 2022 meeting.
- A Board member from Washington State Association of Counties noted there is no additional funding for Counties in the transportation budget. In general, most Counties are struggling with funding, and FBRB may see either an increase in County applications for additional funding barrier removal funding or a drop in the number of applications as Counties are no longer able to match funding.
- The Washington State Transportation Plan “Move Ahead Washington”) includes a request from the Governor for \$2.5 billion to Washington State Department of Transportation to fund culvert injunction projects. This is separate from the National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program, which is a competitive grant program managed by the federal Department of Transportation. The Board is still awaiting further information on the program and will continue to track. A subgroup will meet immediately after this Board meeting to discuss the federal grant program and they will report out at the March 2022 Board meeting.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned early at approximately 9:45 am.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 15, 2021 – online meeting

ATTENDANCE

Board Members/Alternates:

Casey Baldwin, Colville Tribe	Paul Wagner, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
Chair Thomas Jameson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)	Susan Kanzler, WSDOT
Erik Neatherlin, Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)	Susan Eugenis, Washington State Association of Counties
Joe Shramek, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	Terra Rentz, DNR
John Foltz, Council of Regions, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (SRSRB)	Tim Ressegiue, Yakama Indian Nation
Matt Curtis, WDFW	

WDFW, RCO Staff and Triangle Facilitation Team:

Adam Fleming, WDFW	Kaylee Kautz, WDFW
Alison Hart, WDFW	Alice Rubin, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)

Casey Costello, WDFW	Dave Caudill, RCO
Christy Rains, WDFW	Alex Sweetser, Facilitation Support
Gabrielle Stilwater, WDFW	Claire Wendle, Facilitation Support
Julie Groebelny, WDFW	

Others observing:

Cynthia R.	Evan Lewis	Neil Aaland
Damiano Seghetti	Gretchen Glaub	Steve Helvey
Daniel Howe	Jeff Dzado	Steve Malloch
Don Gourlie	Jim Heytvelt	Tracy Gilson
Elena Fernandez	Matthew Miskovic	